

PATHWAYS TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE



IMPACT REPORT 2018–2025



“WE HAVE A MORAL
OBLIGATION TO FUTURE
GENERATIONS TO BUILD
A DYNAMIC, GROWING
AMERICAN ECONOMY
THAT IS DEFINED BY
OPPORTUNITY, MOBILITY
AND PROSPERITY.”

—
PETER G. PETERSON, FOUNDER
1926–2018

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN & CEO

Today, America is facing a complex set of challenges to its future.

Our national debt is \$38 trillion and rising unsustainably, fueled by demographics and growing interest costs that diminish our ability to invest in national priorities. Our healthcare system is — by far — the most inefficient in the world, undermining our health, our economy and our federal and state budgets. And our democracy, while strong, faces increased polarization and gridlock that harms the functioning of policymaking that is essential for effective, representative government.

The seriousness of these challenges is why our resolve must be unwavering. America has come too far for too long to let internal political disagreements and key reform challenges derail the progress of our nation. There is urgent work to be done and we remain resolute.

While meaningful progress in these critical areas may sometimes seem out of reach, the fact is that many well-known solutions exist. There are countless ways to create a sustainable budget, our healthcare system has many tangible solutions, and continuous improvement is necessary for any democracy.

Peterson Philanthropies is driven by the belief that we must come together to meet this moment and forge a better path. As a network of nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations, we work to identify and accelerate pragmatic solutions based on common sense and common ground. We are determined to strengthen the economic and democratic foundations of the United States and build a brighter future for the next generation. Peterson Philanthropies includes:

- The **Peter G. Peterson Foundation**, founded in 2008 to raise awareness and accelerate action on America's long-term fiscal challenges to improve our economic future.
- The **Peterson Center on Healthcare**, founded in 2014 to make affordable healthcare a reality for all Americans by finding, validating and scaling solutions that deliver better health outcomes at lower cost. In 2023, the Center launched the **Peterson Health Technology Institute**, which provides independent evaluations of innovative healthcare solutions to drive the adoption of high value technologies.

- **Peterson Solutions Fund**, founded in 2022 as a 501(c)(4) to support a range of policy advocacy activities to address the same challenges and policy priorities that are the focus of our other organizations.

Through these entities, we work to educate and engage Americans in support of solutions to stabilize America's fiscal outlook, improve the performance of our healthcare system, and strengthen the effectiveness of our democracy and policymaking. Our nonpartisan, substantive approach looks over the long term, to enrich the national conversation, enabling collaborative policymaking that supports economic growth and broad-based prosperity.

It's no secret that these challenges are multi-faceted, deeply engrained, and politically divisive. We aren't under the illusion that they will be solved easily — but we know they are indeed solvable.

With Peterson Philanthropies, we are furthering my father's philanthropic vision every day, reflecting his deep love for this country and enduring commitment to leaving a better world for our children and grandchildren.

I invite you to read on, to learn more about the initiatives we've undertaken recently, and to see where we're going next. We all have a stake in the future we leave to the next generation of Americans.

Michael A. Peterson
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer

CORE ISSUES

Peterson Philanthropies works to strengthen the economic and democratic foundations of the United States.

We seek and advocate for pragmatic solutions across party lines to strengthen our nation's fiscal foundation over the long term and promote a growing, thriving economy. We engage in grantmaking, partnerships and research to educate and connect with citizens and policymakers from a variety of perspectives, with a significant focus on the next generation.



PETERSON PHILANTHROPIES
BRINGS TOGETHER THE
NONPROFIT, NONPARTISAN
WORK OF THE
PETER G. PETERSON
FOUNDATION,
PETERSON CENTER
ON HEALTHCARE &
PETERSON SOLUTIONS FUND,
ENGAGING IN A RANGE OF
INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN
THE ECONOMIC AND
DEMOCRATIC FOUNDATIONS
OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE
FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.



CORE ISSUE FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY & ECONOMIC GROWTH

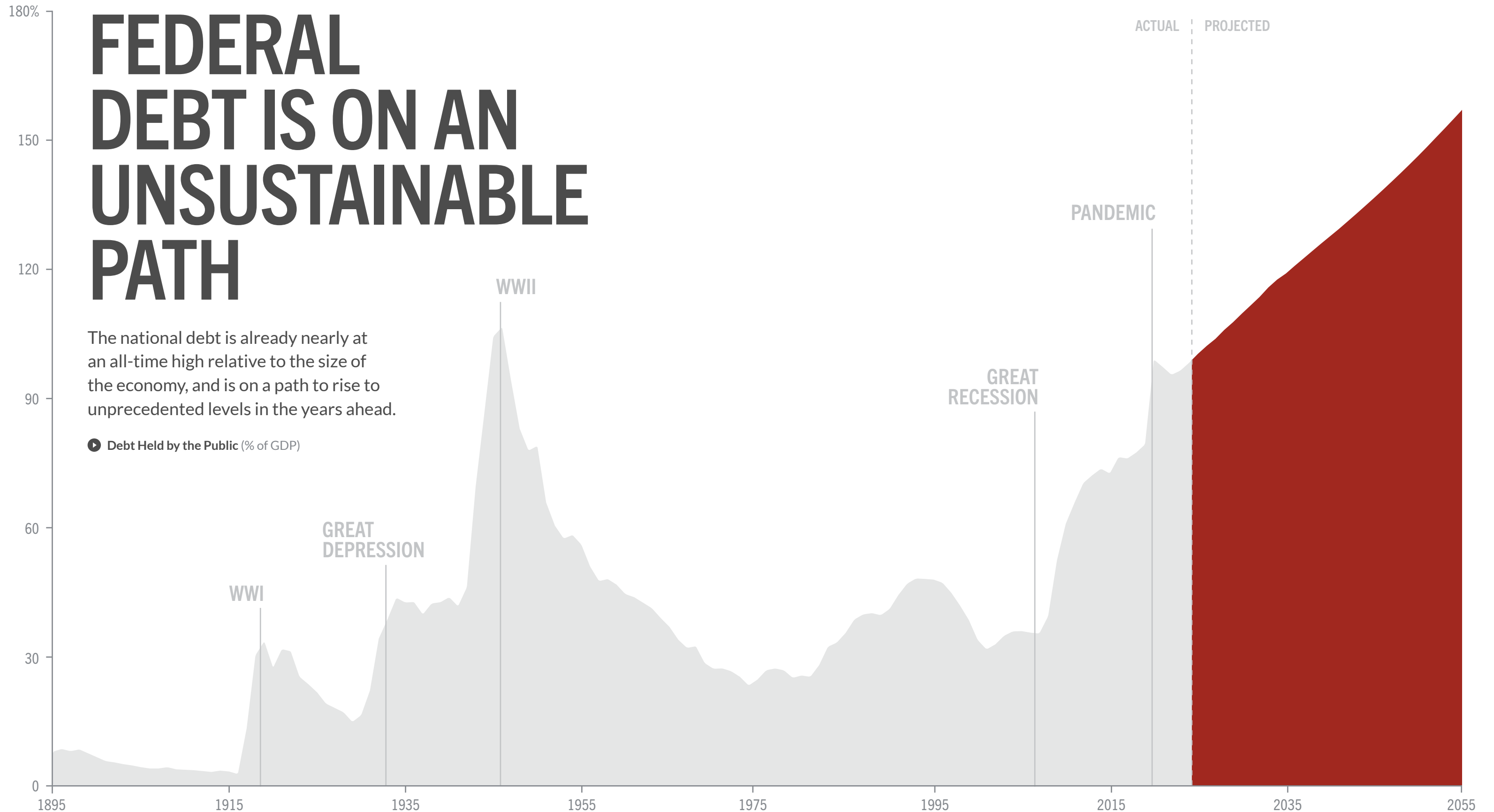
America is on an unsustainable fiscal path that threatens our economy, places a growing burden on future generations and undermines our leadership role in the world. If our long-term fiscal challenges remain unaddressed, our future economy will be diminished as confidence suffers, interest costs crowd out key investments in our future, and we risk higher inflation and a potential weakening of the dollar as the world's reserve currency. Continued inability to address our rapidly rising debt will restrain opportunities for Americans to build a prosperous future. Financial markets are watching: all three major credit ratings agencies have downgraded U.S. credit below their top rating, reflecting a lack of confidence in America's fiscal stability.



FEDERAL DEBT IS ON AN UNSUSTAINABLE PATH

The national debt is already nearly at an all-time high relative to the size of the economy, and is on a path to rise to unprecedented levels in the years ahead.

● Debt Held by the Public (% of GDP)

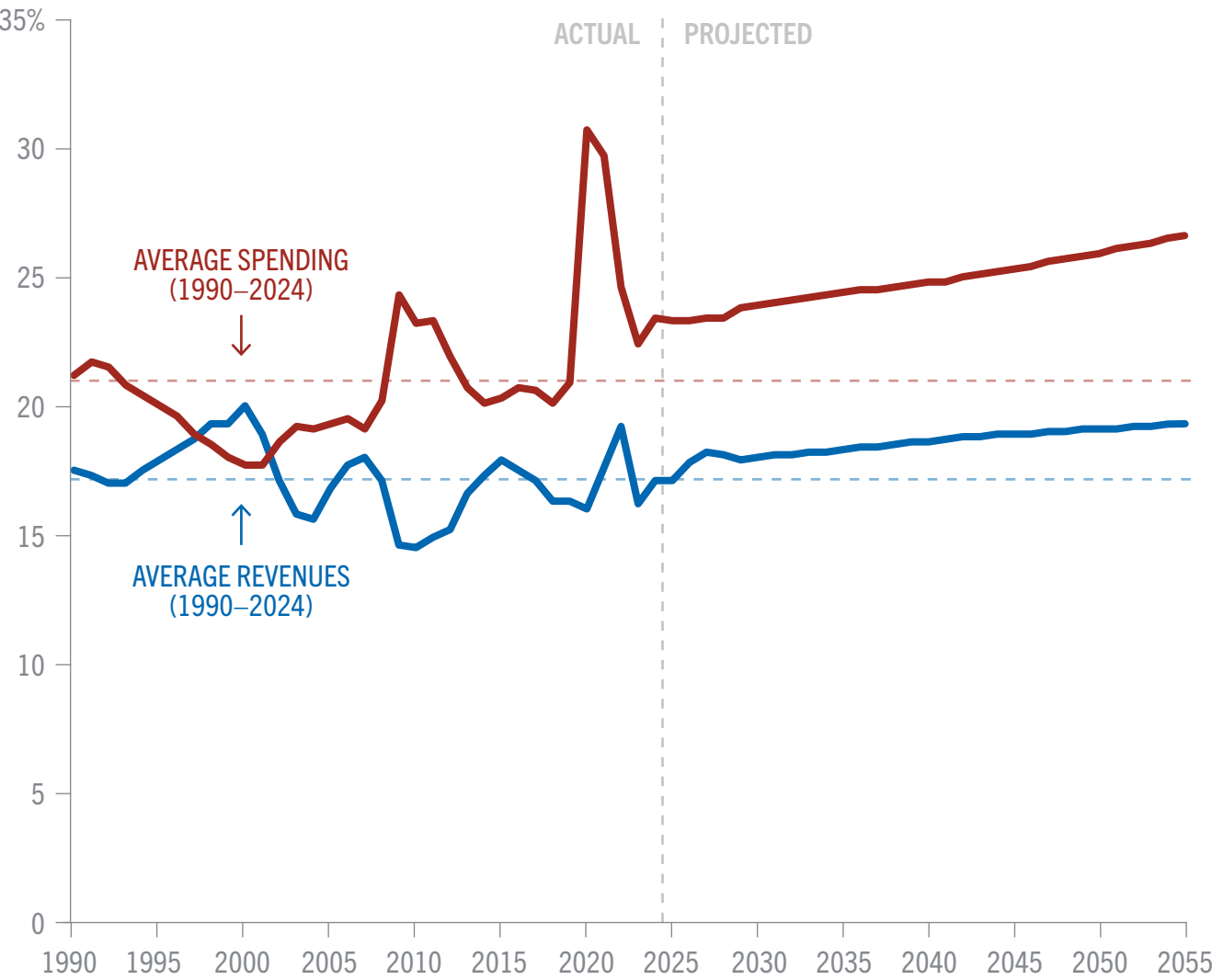


Source: Congressional Budget Office

THE GROWING DEBT IS CAUSED BY A STRUCTURAL MISMATCH BETWEEN SPENDING AND REVENUES

The debt is the result of a fundamental, structural imbalance between revenues and spending. Four primary factors drive this imbalance: an aging population, high healthcare costs, rapidly rising interest costs, and a revenue base that is not designed to fund the promises that we've made.

Federal Spending and Revenues (% of GDP)

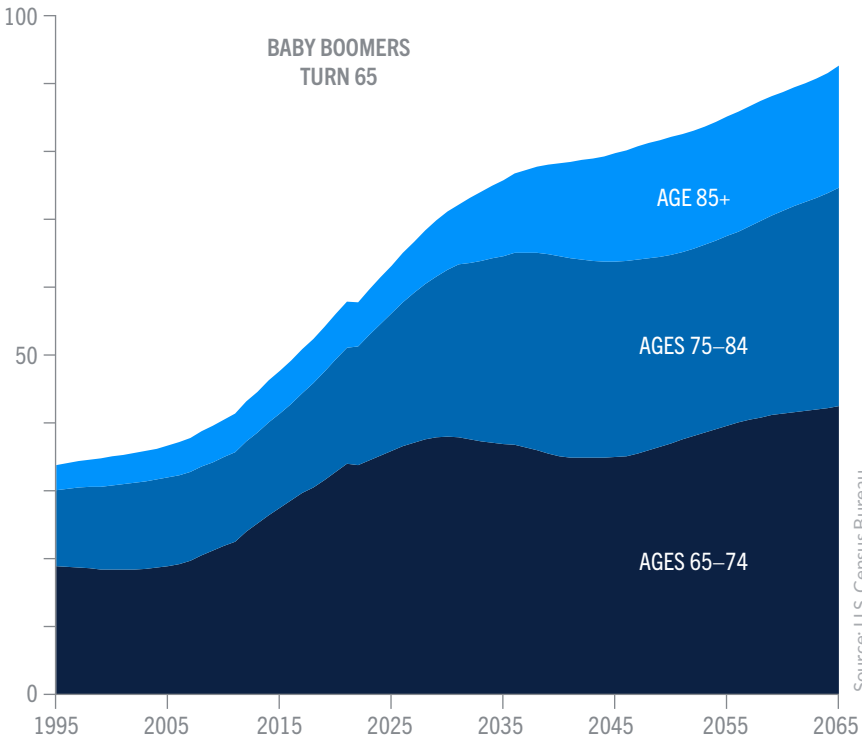


Source: Congressional Budget Office.

THE ELDERLY POPULATION IS GROWING RAPIDLY AND LIVING LONGER

The first wave of the baby-boom generation has already reached retirement age. In addition, Americans are living longer, on average, which means that seniors will spend more years in retirement. In the coming decades, those factors will add substantially to the number of people supported by essential programs like Social Security and Medicare.

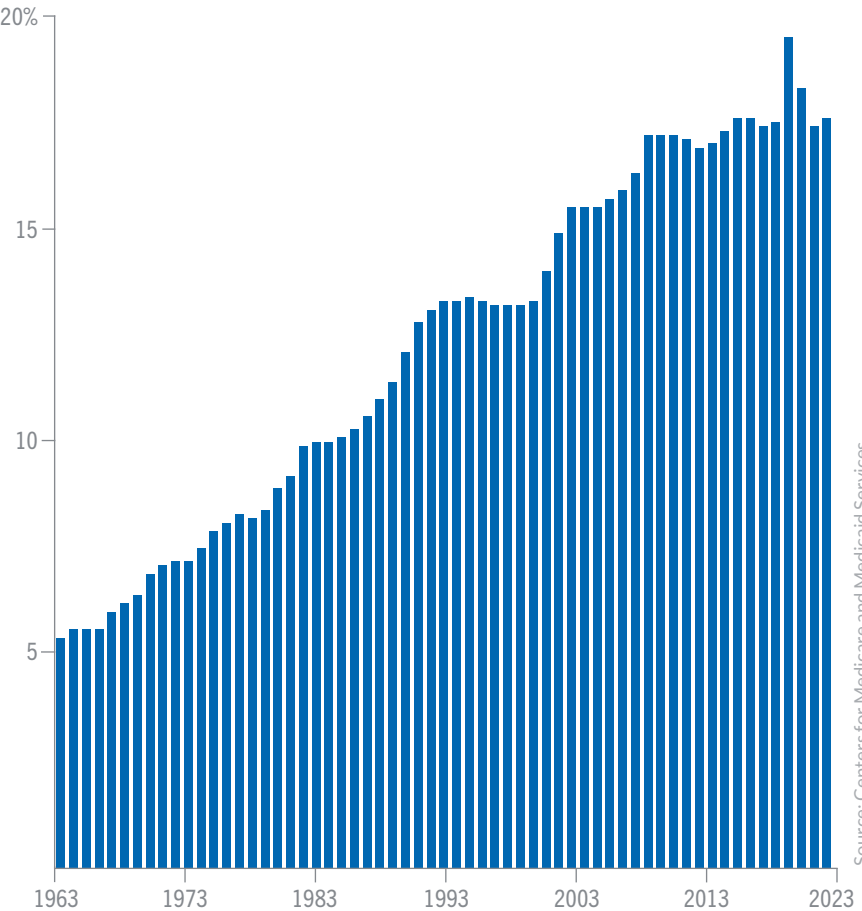
U.S. Population Age 65+ (Millions)



HEALTHCARE COSTS IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE INCREASED DRASTICALLY OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DECADES

Improving our healthcare system to deliver better-quality care at lower cost is critically important to our nation's long-term economic and fiscal wellbeing. Relative to the size of the economy, healthcare costs have increased over the past few decades, from 5 percent of GDP in 1963 to 18 percent in 2023. Such a large proportion of resources devoted to healthcare makes it increasingly difficult to invest in other sectors of our economy, and puts severe strain on the federal budget.

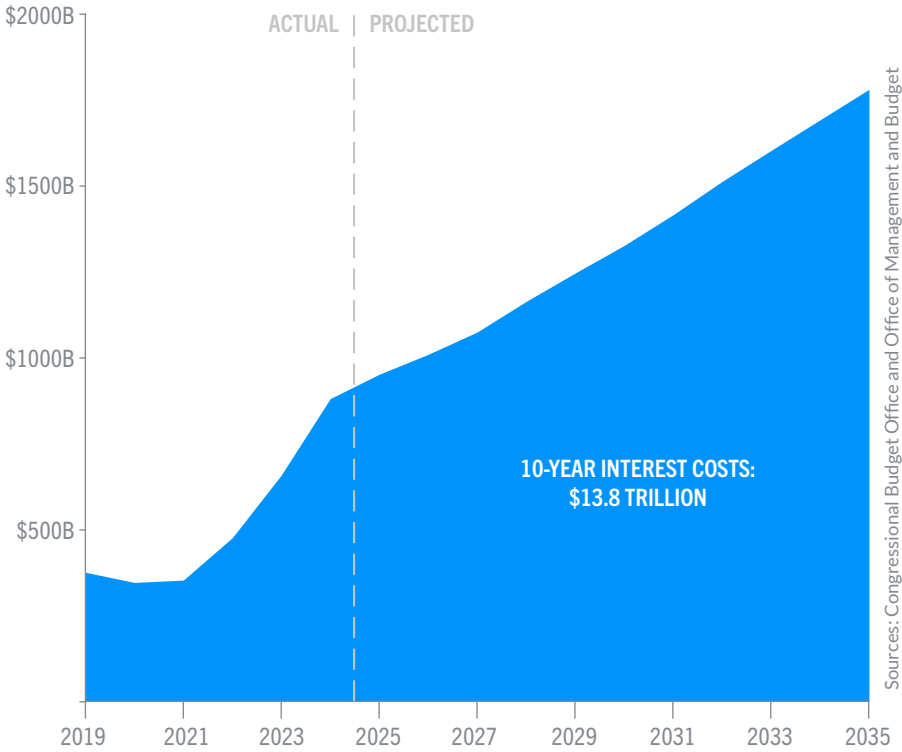
National Health Expenditures (% of GDP)





NET INTEREST COSTS ARE PROJECTED TO RISE SHARPLY

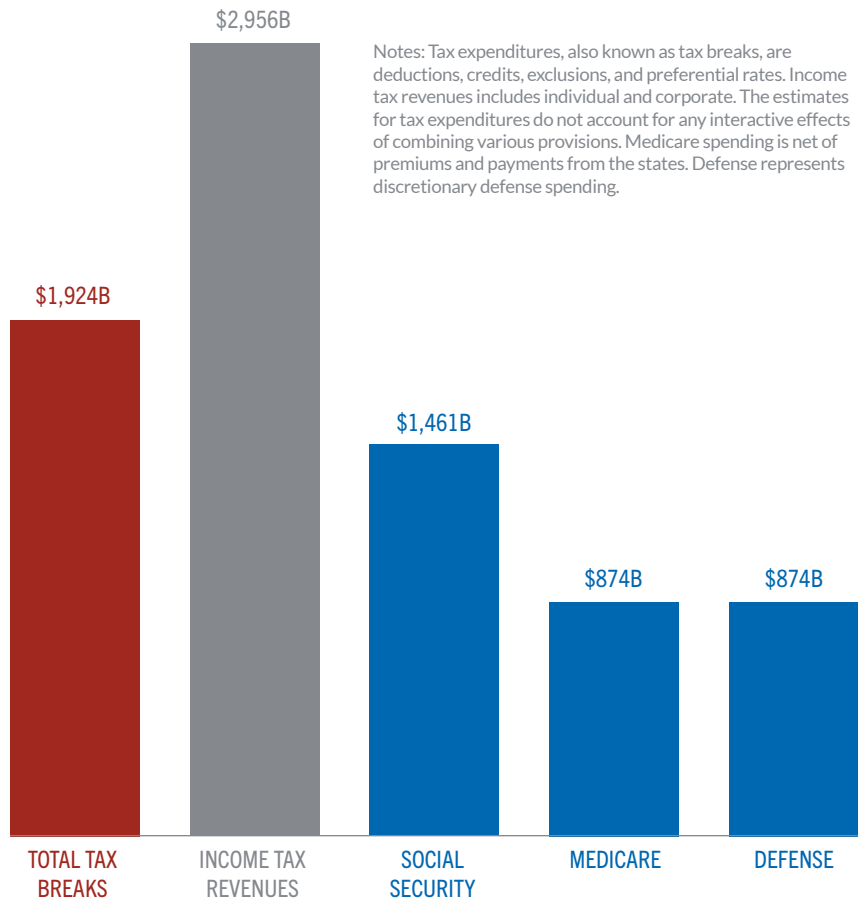
As the national debt grows, the United States spends more of its budget on interest — crowding out opportunities to invest in other priorities. We already spend more on interest than on national defense or children, and interest costs are projected to total nearly \$14 trillion in the next 10 years alone.



TAX BREAKS COST MORE THAN ANY INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENT SPENDING PROGRAM

America’s tax code can be confusing and inefficient, but most importantly, it does not raise sufficient revenues to pay for promises that have been made. Part of the problem is that the system allows for trillions of dollars in tax breaks that increase deficits and create market distortions that are damaging to economic growth and productivity.

► **Budgetary Cost in 2024**
(Billions of \$)





CORE ISSUE HIGH-PERFORMANCE HEALTHCARE

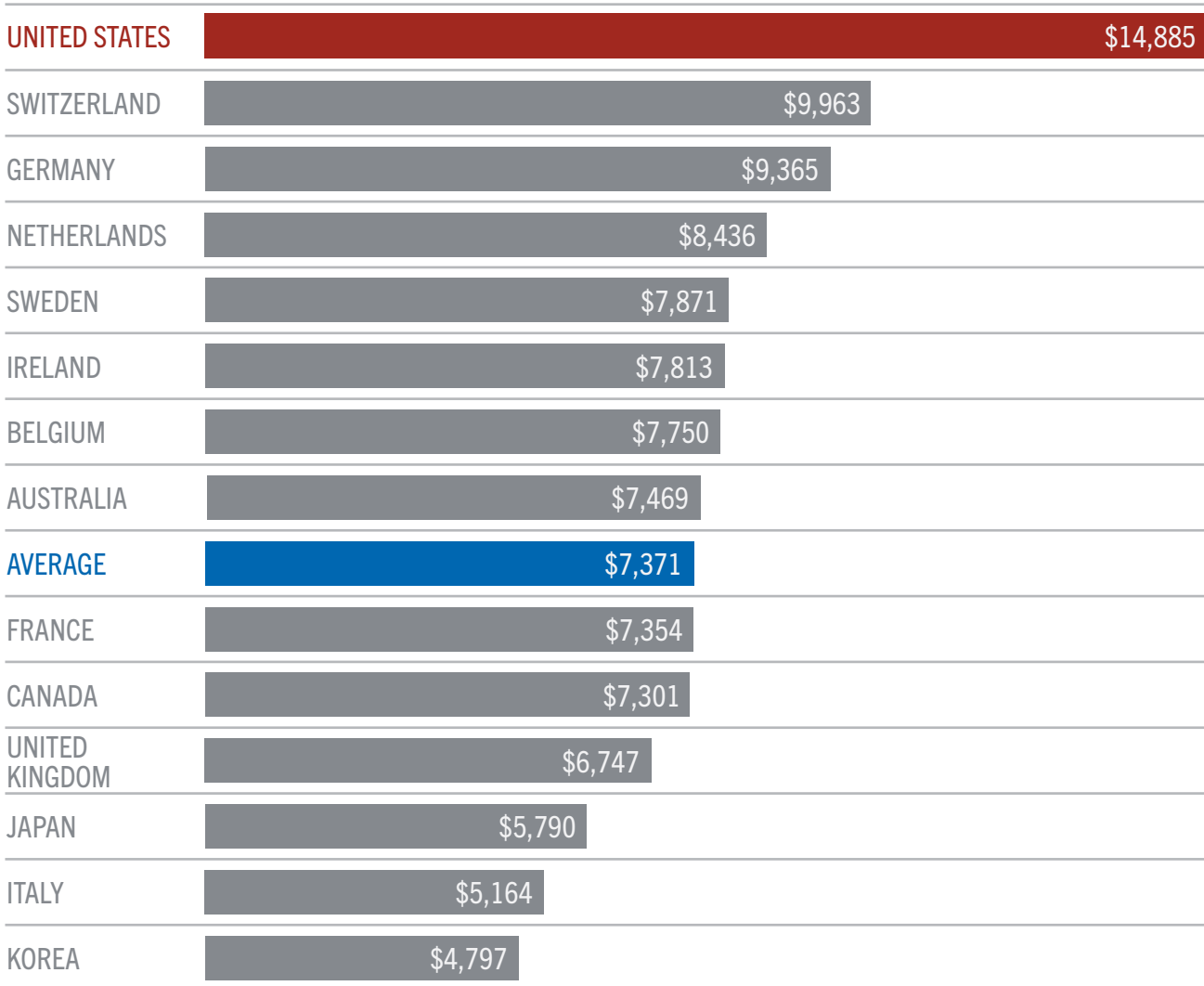
Healthcare spending is 18 percent of the U.S. economy — \$4.9 trillion — and continues to rise. Despite our massive spending on healthcare — more than twice the average of other wealthy countries — the United States consistently has worse health outcomes than other wealthy countries. This poor performance places a burden on families, businesses and federal and state budgets, which means fewer resources for everything else. We must seek ways to deliver higher quality care at a lower cost.



U.S. PER CAPITA HEALTHCARE SPENDING IS ALMOST TWICE THE AVERAGE OF OTHER WEALTHY COUNTRIES

The healthcare system in the United States is by far the most expensive in the world.

Healthcare Costs Per Capita (\$)

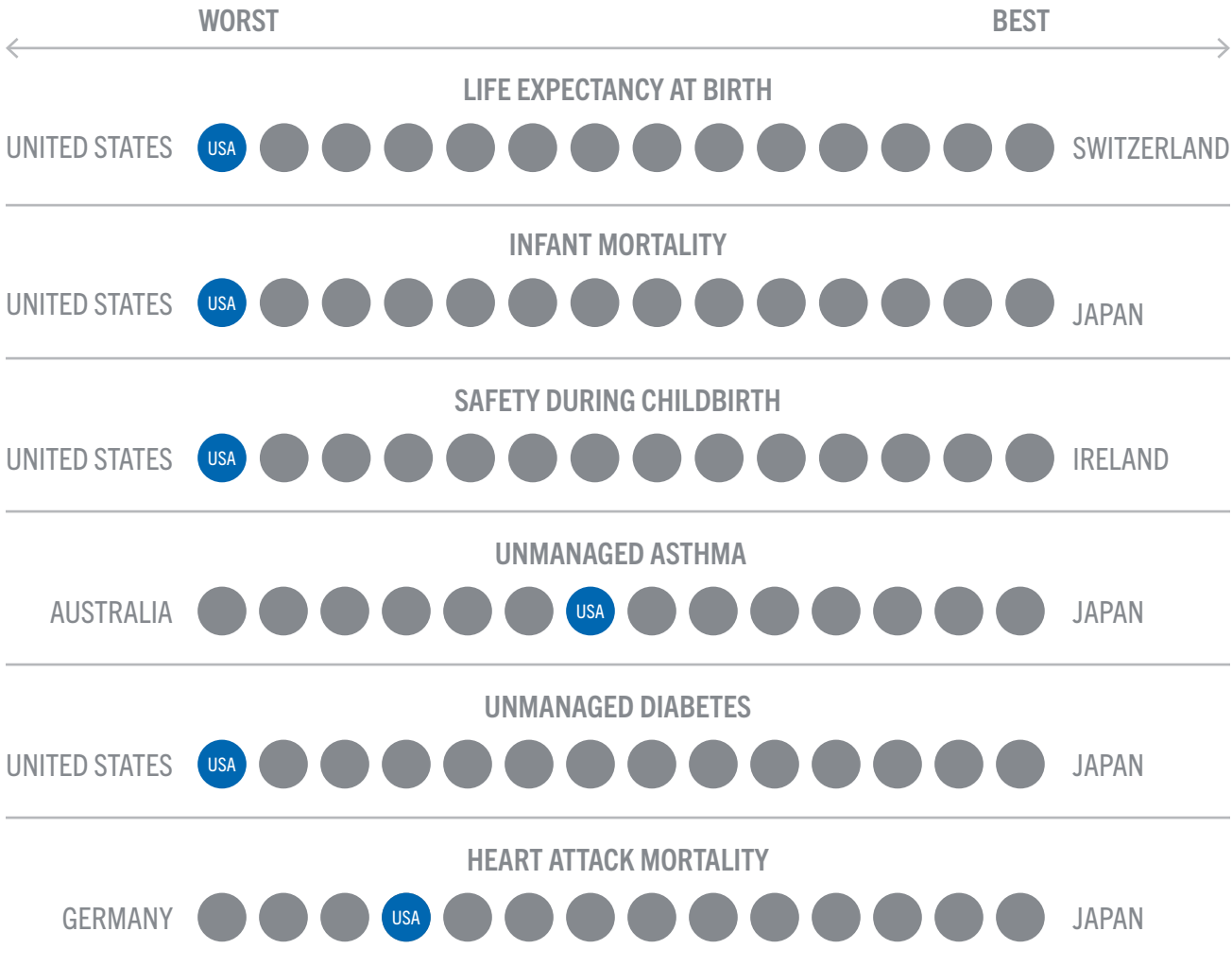


Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Notes: Data are for 2024. Average does not include the United States. The five countries with the largest economies and those with both an above median GDP and GDP per capita, relative to all OECD countries, were included. Chart uses purchasing power parities to convert data into U.S. dollars.

**ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES
SPENDS MORE ON HEALTHCARE,
ITS HEALTH OUTCOMES ARE
GENERALLY NOT ANY BETTER**

The United States consistently has lower life expectancy, a higher maternal mortality rate and greater rates of unmanaged diseases, compared to other wealthy countries. This leaves people with unnecessary, ineffective, or even harmful care.



Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Notes: Data are for 2023 or latest available.



CORE ISSUE EFFECTIVE DEMOCRACY

A healthy democracy and policymaking process — rooted in trust, constructive engagement and institutional integrity — is foundational to advancing pragmatic solutions to our nation's challenges.

However, increasing polarization, reduced trust in elections, and growing levels of misinformation and misunderstanding have eroded the quality and effectiveness of the national conversation. These damaging trends threaten the essential exchange of ideas that is required for a successful democracy and high-functioning policymaking process.

To make progress on our nation's fiscal and economic challenges, we must improve the effectiveness of our democracy and policymaking. We are committed to addressing these issues through work in two key areas: supporting secure, transparent and trustworthy election administration; and fostering informed and constructive collaboration toward effective, solutions-oriented policymaking.

Trusted Elections

Elections are the foundation upon which effective governance is built. However, increasing technological, financial, and political pressures have contributed to declining trust in election processes and outcomes. Decentralized and fragmented elections, governed by different policies across each of the states and administered by more than 10,000 local elected officials, create barriers to sharing evidence-based best practices and collaborating to address common challenges. Trustworthy elections must be not only secure and transparent but also supported by a professionalized and resilient infrastructure.

Effective Policymaking

Implementing pragmatic, common-sense policies that effectively address our nation's key challenges requires informed, constructive and productive dialogue. As we confront deepening polarization and a weakened institutional capacity that make it difficult for elected officials to collaborate and solve problems, we must work to improve the national policy conversation. It is critical to our ability to solve national problems that we foster a shared understanding and a shared commitment to working together to find common ground.





The Peter G. Peterson Foundation is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to addressing America's long-term fiscal challenges to ensure a better economic future.

PATHWAYS TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

PETER G. PETERSON FOUNDATION



EFFECTIVE
DEMOCRACY



FISCAL
SUSTAINABILITY
& ECONOMIC
GROWTH



PATHWAYS TO FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY & ECONOMIC GROWTH

ADVANCING POLICY SOLUTIONS

The Peterson Foundation provides a platform for leading thinkers and policymakers to have constructive discussions about our fiscal future.

Solutions Initiative

America’s fiscal challenges are serious, but they are also solvable. The Solutions Initiative convenes respected policy organizations from across the political spectrum to highlight the wide variety of options that can put America on a stronger, more sustainable fiscal path.

Solutions Initiative 2024: Charting a Brighter Future brought together seven leading research organizations: the American Action Forum, the American Enterprise Institute, the Bipartisan Policy Center, the Center for American Progress, the Economic Policy Institute, the Manhattan Institute, and the Progressive Policy Institute. All seven groups proposed comprehensive plans that would successfully lower and stabilize our debt through a combination of spending and revenue reforms.

The Solutions Initiative demonstrates that many solutions exist and, no matter your political outlook, there are good options to chart a brighter future for America.



Expert Views

The Peterson Foundation’s Expert Views essay series convenes leading voices to offer ideas, insights and analysis surrounding our nation’s fiscal and economic challenges.

With authors including former Senators Heidi Heitkamp and Rob Portman; economists Mark Zandi, Nela Richardson and Diane Swonk; and former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, these substantive essays provide a range of perspectives to explore and explain the current policy landscape.

Expert Views authors have examined the connection between inflation, interest and the national debt, opportunities for bipartisan policymaking under divided government, and how best to structure a fiscal commission to achieve comprehensive deficit reduction.

Key Policy Research Grants

Through strategic grants and partnerships, the Peterson Foundation supports policy research and educational initiatives from respected organizations representing a variety of perspectives. Examples of our partners include:

COMMITTEE FOR A RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL BUDGET

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget (CRFB) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization committed to educating the public on issues with significant fiscal policy impact. The Peterson Foundation supports CRFB’s work to advance fiscal sustainability and budget reform through research, outreach, and public engagement.



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) is a nonprofit organization that encourages across-the-aisle policymaking, providing Republicans and Democrats with the space, policy insights, and evidence-based research they need to negotiate in good faith and find common ground. The Peterson Foundation supports BPC’s work to produce bipartisan research and analysis on fiscal and economic policy solutions, including proposals to reform the debt limit and strengthen Social Security.



Key Policy Research
Grants (continued)



MANHATTAN INSTITUTE

The Manhattan Institute is a center-right public policy think tank dedicated to advancing opportunity, individual liberty, and the rule of law in America. The Peterson Foundation supports the Manhattan Institute’s work to advance fiscal solutions through original research and analysis related to fiscal responsibility and outreach to policymakers and the media about the importance of the issue.



PROGRESSIVE POLICY INSTITUTE

The Progressive Policy Institute (PPI) is a center-left think tank focused on policy innovation and political reform to move America beyond ideological and partisan deadlock. The Peterson Foundation supports PPI’s Center for Funding America’s Future, which develops fiscally responsible policy proposals to strengthen public investments in the foundation of our economy, modernize health and retirement programs, transform our tax code and put the national debt on a downward trajectory.



THE BUDGET LAB AT YALE

The Budget Lab at Yale is a nonpartisan policy research center dedicated to providing in-depth analysis of federal policy proposals for the American economy. The Peterson Foundation supports the Budget Lab’s work to provide independent analysis of the potential fiscal and economic effects of different fiscal policy proposals including the impact of debt on inflation and modeling the impact of the 2025 reconciliation bill.

ENGAGING AMERICANS

The Peterson Foundation educates and raises awareness among Americans to promote understanding of fiscal and economic issues, enabling a thoughtful national dialogue around sustainable policies.

PGPF Website

With original content, interactive tools and a deep library of substantive resources, pgpf.org is a dynamic educational hub for millions of users. Our timely research and analysis enhances the policy conversation by explaining the fiscal challenge, outlining solutions and empowering Americans with accessible and insightful content.

2.7M+
WEBSITE USERS

The PGPF website passed the 1-million-user mark for the first time in 2019, and by 2025 had amassed an audience of 2.7 million users.

National Debt Clocks

In 2019, the Peterson Foundation installed national debt clocks in cities across the country, including in Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Cleveland, Des Moines and Milwaukee, reminding Americans about this critical issue during their daily commutes. The constantly-updated clocks provide the current national debt amount, as well as the total debt per person in America, serving as a reminder of this challenge to our shared future.



Media

The Peterson Foundation regularly works with journalists to inform the policy conversation and serve as a source for unbiased, fact-based resources about America’s fiscal and economic challenges. The Foundation provides nonpartisan commentary and analysis for global, national, regional, and trade media outlets.

Fiscal Confidence Index

The Fiscal Confidence Index (FCI) is a monthly survey that provides timely insights into the public’s views about our fiscal and economic condition, and the progress elected leaders are making in addressing it.

Modeled after the Consumer Confidence Index, FCI helps policymakers, members of the media, and the American public gauge voters’ views on the nation’s fiscal and economic challenges. Since its inception in 2012, the survey has consistently shown that Americans hold deep concerns about the level of our debt, and they urge policymakers to make addressing our fiscal and economic future a top priority.

Key Engagement Grants

The Peterson Foundation has developed a range of innovative grant partnerships to engage new audiences and broaden the policy conversation.



THE FISCAL SHIP
The Fiscal Ship, developed by the Hutchins Center at the Brookings Institution and the Wilson Center, is an interactive online game that challenges players to put the budget on a sustainable course while meeting policy goals.



MARKETPLACE
Beginning in 2023, the Peterson Foundation provided a multi-year grant to Marketplace to enhance the outlet’s U.S. fiscal news-making capacity across radio, digital, podcast and social platforms. Marketplace journalists create audio and written reports delving into America’s long-term fiscal challenges and their human impacts. Marketplace hosts public fiscal events that engage a range of stakeholders.

DEVELOPING FUTURE FISCAL AND ECONOMIC LEADERS

Empowering Young People

The next generation has the most to gain, and the most at stake, in how we build our fiscal and economic future. The Peterson Foundation is committed to engaging young Americans in a critical conversation about the rising national debt and ways to manage it. We have developed a range of programs to empower and inspire the next generation to build the future they want.

UP TO US LEADERSHIP NETWORK

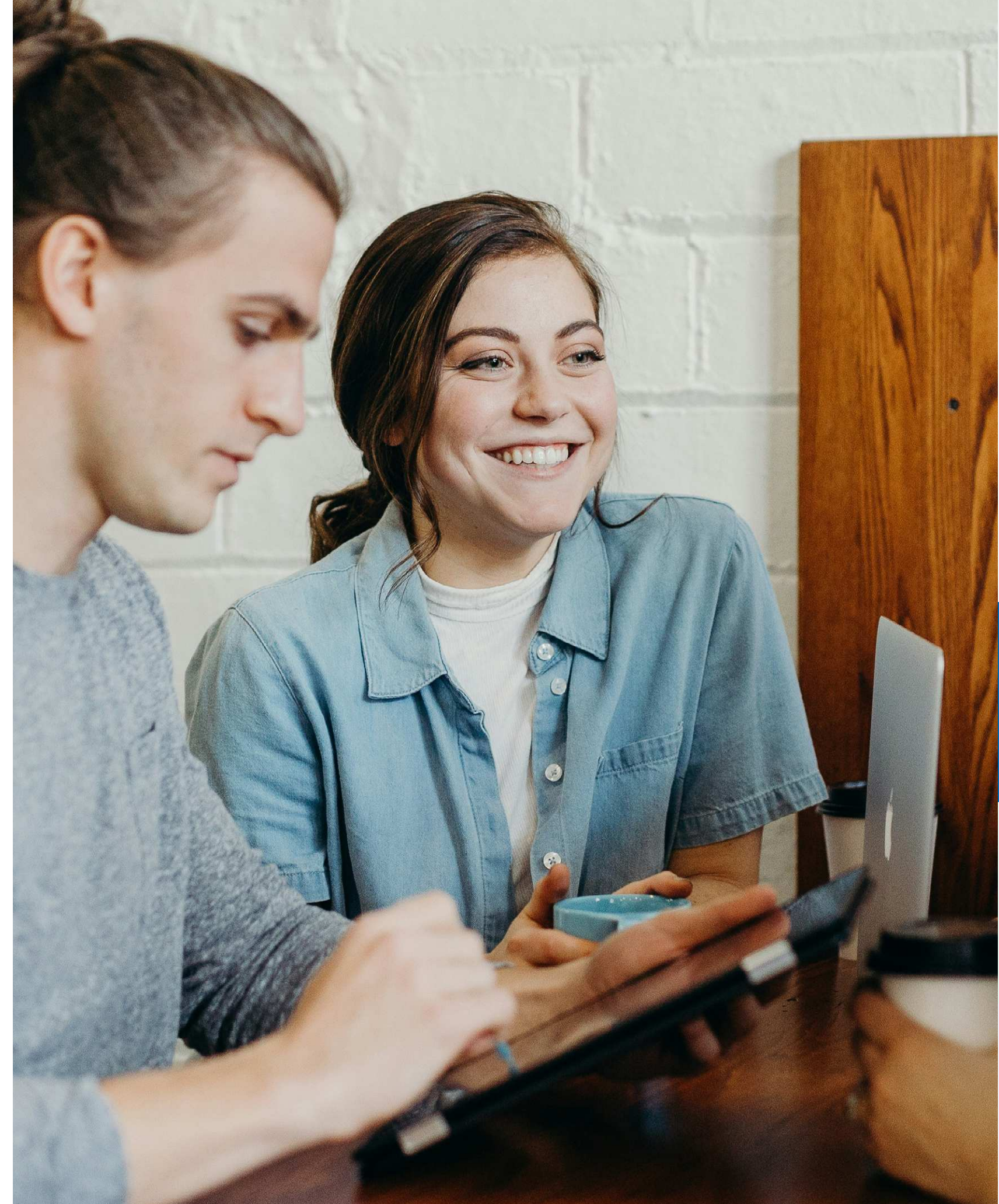
The Up to Us Leadership Network empowers young adults to build a more sustainable economic and fiscal future for America. Launched in 2012 on 10 college campuses, the Network has grown to become the nation’s leading organizing vehicle for civically minded student leaders who are eager to mobilize their peers and communities and who care deeply about advocating for fiscal reform. By providing them with educational opportunities, skills training, expansive networks, and platforms for action, we are preparing the next generation of American leaders to drive sustainable fiscal policy for decades to come.

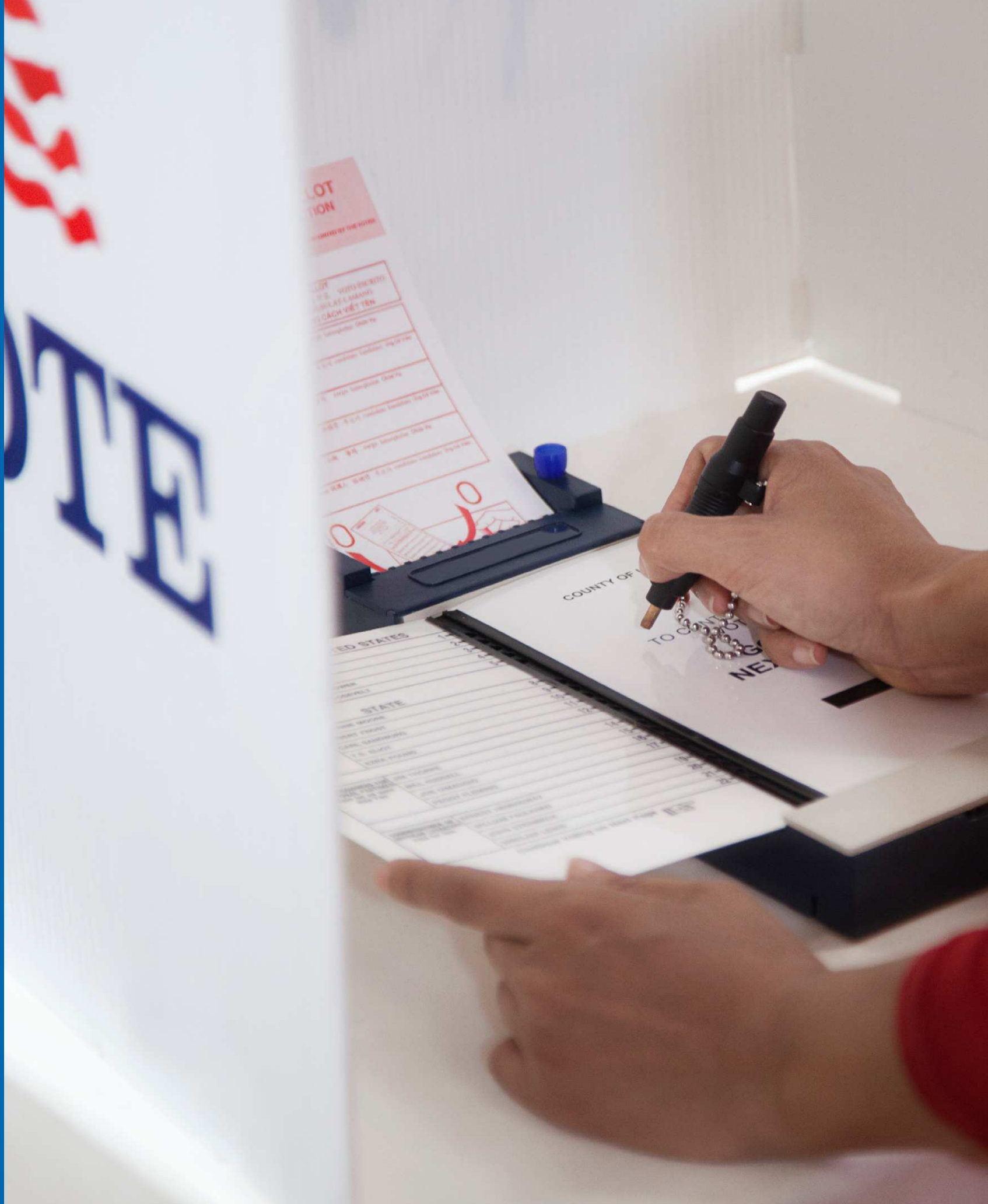
With the support of our partners — Net Impact, Campus Compact, Volcker Alliance, Fiscal Challenge, and the Clinton Global Initiative — college students participate in programs focused on peer engagement, policy development, and leadership skills development. Up to Us continues to provide support and professional development opportunities for program alumni as they continue to navigate their careers in government, politics, policy, and issue advocacy. With an emphasis on fiscal and economic policy, the Up to Us Leadership Network teaches students how to tackle complex and consequential issues, while also developing broader leadership skills that they can carry throughout their lifetimes.



FISCAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Peterson Foundation Fiscal Internship Program offers full-time paid internships to college and graduate school students interested in fiscal policy at a set of public policy institutions. Interns live and work in Washington, D.C., for 10 weeks during the summer, while gaining professional experience, skills and contacts that will serve them throughout their careers.





PATHWAYS TO EFFECTIVE DEMOCRACY

TRUSTED ELECTIONS

The Peterson Foundation works to achieve a healthy democracy by fostering conditions that support solutions-oriented policymaking and securing trusted elections that uphold the democratic process. Towards that goal, the Foundation has partnered with the Klarman Family Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to establish the Election Trust Initiative (ETI). This nonpartisan grantmaking organization works to strengthen the field of election administration and is guided by the principle that America’s election systems must be secure, transparent, accurate, and convenient. The initiative supports researchers, policymakers, election administrators and other organizations working to illuminate challenges, highlight successes, and bring evidence-based solutions to scale.



Key ETI Grants

BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

To advance efforts to address workforce challenges in election administration, including recruitment, retention, and training.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY’S ELECTION DATA AND SCIENCE LAB

To conduct and coordinate research to generate actionable, trusted, empirical evidence for the election policy and practice community.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

To update its public state elections legislation database, develop nonpartisan programs on election policy and practice for legislators and legislative staff and build connections between policymakers and election administrators.

R STREET INSTITUTE AND SNF AGORA INSTITUTE AT JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

To engage community leaders to improve nonpartisan election administration and foster confidence in states’ election systems.

VERIFIED VOTING

To increase its capacity to help election offices implement evidence-based election security, accuracy, and transparency practices.

EFFECTIVE POLICYMAKING

To help foster a more collaborative and solutions-oriented governance, the Peterson Foundation supports initiatives to increase engagement and understanding within the policymaking process. These efforts include a series of convenings to educate policymakers, build trust, strengthen collaboration, and enhance capacity in various areas. By investing in programs that emphasize relationship-building and collaboration, we aim to equip policymakers with the knowledge, tools and insights needed to navigate complex legislative and economic challenges.



Key Leadership and Governance Grants

CARE LAB

To strengthen relationships and professional development among Senate chiefs of staff through a cohort-based series of working sessions.

CONGRESSIONAL MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION

To host a training series for House and Senate staff to deepen understanding of fiscal issues and the federal budget process, while promoting cross-party connections.

CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

To support informational events for new Members of Congress on legislative procedures, institutional norms, and key policy issues.

REBUILD CONGRESS INITIATIVE

To facilitate closed-door sessions to foster bipartisan relationships, trust, and collaboration among Members of Congress.



The Peterson Center on Healthcare engages in a variety of initiatives to accelerate the adoption of innovative solutions that improve quality and lower cost on a national scale.

PATHWAYS
TO A BRIGHTER
FUTURE

PETERSON CENTER ON HEALTHCARE



HIGH-
PERFORMANCE
HEALTHCARE



**PATHWAYS TO
HIGH-PERFORMANCE
HEALTHCARE**



Transforming Healthcare
to Improve Outcomes
and Lower Costs

The Center collaborates with stakeholders across healthcare, including providers, payers, employers, and patient groups. Its work strengthens America’s health data infrastructure, informs and improves healthcare purchasing, and supports solutions that reduce costs and make care more affordable, efficient, and effective.

HEALTHCARE SPENDING
CURRENTLY REPRESENTS
APPROXIMATELY

18% OF U.S. GDP

And is projected to
outpace growth in
the overall economy
in the years ahead.

PETERSON HEALTH TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE



Digital health technologies have vast potential to improve U.S. health system performance by revolutionizing delivery, advancing better outcomes, enhancing the patient experience, and promoting equity — all while lowering costs. Yet, patients, providers, payers, and investors have limited information about the efficacy and performance of the many digital health tools entering the sector.

Assessments

To fill this information gap with independent, publicly available evaluations, the Center launched the Peterson Health Technology Institute (PHTI) in 2023. With the aim of improving health and lowering costs, PHTI provides rigorous, evidence-based assessments of innovative digital health technologies in a range of areas.

PHTI’s evaluations are intended to accelerate adoption of high-value technologies by supporting purchasing decisions for employers, providers, and health plans seeking to understand the impact and effectiveness of new digital health solutions coming to the market. Additionally, PHTI evaluations provide guidance to technology developers and investors on the evidence required to demonstrate clinical and economic benefits.

The ICER-PHTI Assessment
Framework for Digital Health
Technologies

PHTI partnered with the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER), a leader in health technology assessment, to develop a custom framework to identify the most promising digital health solutions. The ICER-PHTI Assessment Framework for Digital Health Technologies evaluates clinical benefits and economic impact, as well as their effects on health equity, privacy, and security.



Assessments
(continued)



Since its launch, PHTI has released five evaluations — digital diabetes management solutions, virtual musculoskeletal solutions, digital hypertension management solutions, virtual solutions for depression and anxiety, and virtual solutions for opioid use disorder — that have been used by health plans, employers, providers, and investors across the industry to drive evidence-based decision making.

DIGITAL DIABETES MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

In the United States, approximately one in seven adults has type 2 diabetes, which is the eighth leading cause of death. At over \$400 billion of total healthcare spending annually, diabetes is the most expensive chronic condition to treat and manage. Given the critical role of patient self-management, investment in digital health tools has surged in recent years.

PHTI’s evaluation found that digital diabetes management tools do not deliver meaningful clinical benefits, and result in increased healthcare spending.

VIRTUAL MUSCULOSKELETAL (MSK) SOLUTIONS

Nearly one in three people in the United States have an MSK disorder, which are the leading causes of disability and account for nearly 10 percent of medical spending in the United States. These conditions impair patients’ daily lives, impact their productivity, limit their ability to work and earn a living, and contribute to mental health challenges.

PHTI found that for people with a range of MSK conditions, many virtual solutions deliver clinically meaningful improvements in pain and function.



DIGITAL HYPERTENSION MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is one of the most common chronic conditions in the United States and affects an estimated 120 million people, or nearly half of U.S. adults.

PHTI’s evaluation found that digital hypertension solutions focused on medication management deliver rapid and clinically meaningful improvements in blood pressure that outperform usual care, while other digital approaches to hypertension management are less effective and do not provide clinically meaningful improvements.



VIRTUAL SOLUTIONS FOR DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY

Depression and anxiety are two of the most common mental health conditions in the United States, affecting more than one in five adults. Despite efforts to expand screening, many people with symptoms of anxiety or depression do not receive effective treatment.

PHTI’s evaluation found that virtual depression and anxiety tools are effective and can expand access to care for people with mild-to-moderate symptoms, however, some pricing models result in higher total healthcare costs for employers and plans.



VIRTUAL OPIOID USE DISORDER SOLUTIONS

Opioid use disorder (OUD) is a significant public health crisis, affecting more than 9 million adults across the United States and contributing to approximately 80,000 deaths from overdose each year. Despite the availability of highly effective medications, only 25 percent of adults in need of OUD treatment receive a medication-based intervention.

PHTI’s evaluation indicates that virtual solutions for OUD are as effective as usual, medication-based treatment and can help people stay in treatment slightly longer. However, despite growing investment in and adoption of these digital solutions, there is no clear evidence that they meaningfully reduce the overall cost of care or expand participation in OUD treatment.

Collaboration

PHTI SUMMIT

PHTI annually convenes senior healthcare executives for discussion on the future of investment, evidence generation, and adoption of digital health tools. The PHTI Summit brings together healthcare leaders from across disciplines — including clinical and payer experts, patient advocates, health economists, and investors — who speak about the challenges and opportunities they face in advancing the adoption of high-value technologies.



Research



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN HEALTHCARE: EARLY APPLICATIONS AND IMPACTS

In 2025, PHTI launched an AI Taskforce, convening major hospitals and health systems, AI solution companies, and industry experts to help drive thoughtful adoption of AI solutions to deliver efficiency gains for the U.S. healthcare system.

The Taskforce’s inaugural report explores how hospital and other health system administrators purchase, utilize, and measure performance of AI technology that documents encounters between patients and clinicians.



STATE OF DIGITAL HEALTH PURCHASING SURVEY

Since 2024, PHTI has released the State of Digital Health Purchasing survey. The annual survey captures information about purchasers’ selection process, contracting approach, and future adoption plans in the burgeoning, multibillion-dollar digital health technology industry.

INFORMING PURCHASING DECISIONS

As healthcare costs rise, purchasers — including federal and state governments and private employers — are spending more to cover care for the people they serve. With little transparency about healthcare prices, uncertainty about health needs, and limited negotiating power, it is difficult for purchasers to address high healthcare spending.

The Center works with governments and employers to develop partnerships to advance affordable, high-quality healthcare.

Helping Employers Become More Effective Purchasers of Healthcare

The Peterson Center on Healthcare is fostering a more competitive commercial healthcare market by helping employers become more informed, effective purchasers and managers of healthcare benefits.

Through the support of robust data analytics, private-public employer coalitions, and targeted policy engagement, the Center equips employers with actionable insights to improve their healthcare benefit purchasing and management.

For example, a Center-supported initiative of the Purchaser Business Group on Health (PBGH), a nonprofit coalition representing 40 private employers and public entities across the country, equips employers with unprecedented insights into the costs and value of the care they purchase, enabling them to pursue strategies that help bring ever-increasing healthcare spending under control while providing quality care.

Peterson-Milbank Program for Sustainable Health Care Costs

ADVANCING STATE-BASED EFFORTS FOR HEALTHCARE AFFORDABILITY

A growing number of states have adopted policies to set a sustainable target for healthcare cost growth and measure statewide healthcare spending. The Peterson-Milbank Program for Sustainable Health Care Costs advances these efforts by providing technical assistance, strategic communications, and analytics support to participating states, while hosting interstate learning opportunities for state partners to facilitate peer learning on how to address underlying drivers of cost growth. By examining spending patterns across all types of payers and identifying cost drivers, these states are leading the way toward ultimately making healthcare more affordable for everyone.

FOSTERING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

The Peterson Center on Healthcare supports innovative research and solutions that have the potential to significantly improve the U.S. healthcare system. Expanding the use of new health technologies that are proven to work can lead to improved outcomes, enhanced patient experience, and better access to equitable, affordable care.



The Future of Telehealth and Remote Patient Monitoring

As telehealth and remote patient monitoring usage by Medicare beneficiaries soared during the pandemic, policymakers needed evidence to understand how these types of virtual care impacted the practice of medicine and costs to Medicare. The Center funded the Bipartisan Policy Center to conduct extensive research and Medicare data analysis to inform and shape telehealth and remote patient monitoring policies.



EVOLVING REMOTE MONITORING

A report from the Center assesses how remote patient monitoring tools are being used in Medicare and makes recommendations for policymakers to better align coverage and payment with outcomes. The report synthesizes the clinical results from PHTI's evaluations and analyzes trends in Medicare and Medicaid billing for these services.

Improving Access to Affordable Medication

The Center works with partners to increase the supply of life-saving drugs, filling a market gap that can help mitigate medication shortages and maintain affordability. Center funding also supports research to better understand the commercial and regulatory forces that shape the cost of treatments and identify solutions to address unmet needs.



CIVICA RX

The Center is a funder and founding partner of Civica Rx, a nonprofit pharmaceutical manufacturer working to ensure the affordability and availability of generic medications. Established by U.S. member hospitals and philanthropic organizations, Civica Rx is focused on eliminating drug shortages and bringing down prices for patients. In its first five years, Civica Rx provided over 70 million vials or syringes of almost 65 essential generic medications to hospitals, which have been used to treat more than 45 million patients. Under Civica Rx's model, hospitals enter contracts directly with the company, avoiding intermediaries. Doctors and pharmacists at member hospitals choose the drugs that Civica Rx provides, and Civica Rx offers all members the same price for these products, regardless of hospital size.

EFFICIENT HEALTHCARE MARKETS

Caroline Pearson, Executive Director of the Peterson Center on Healthcare, testified before the Senate Finance Committee at a hearing on healthcare consolidation and corporate ownership. Pearson shared research and experience on how data transparency can improve healthcare markets. She further called on policymakers to advance transparency efforts so that healthcare purchasers can engage in more effective negotiations on health benefits.



DATA ACCESS FOR EMPLOYERS

Mairin Mancino, the Center’s Vice President for Policy, testified before Congress in the House Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions’ hearing on strengthening the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and employer-sponsored health benefits. In her testimony, she emphasized the importance of data access for employers to better carry out their fiduciary responsibilities, motivate employer markets, and ultimately reduce healthcare costs.



TRACKING SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

It is impossible to improve the performance of the U.S. healthcare system if decision-makers do not understand where the challenges and opportunities exist. That is why the Center tracks and reports on the U.S. healthcare system to identify what works — and what doesn’t — to improve quality and reduce cost.

Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

The Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker measures and provides visualizations of the performance of the U.S. healthcare system to provide clear, actionable insights into the issues and opportunities facing healthcare.





Peterson Solutions Fund is a nonpartisan 501(c)(4) that develops initiatives to stabilize America’s fiscal outlook, improve the performance of our healthcare system and strengthen the pillars of our democracy, to support a growing, thriving economy over the long term.

Founded in 2022, Peterson Solutions Fund enhances and complements the longstanding nonpartisan, work of the Peterson Foundation, advocating for substantive, fact-based solutions and actions that improve the policymaking process, economy and everyday life of Americans.

PETERSON SOLUTIONS FUND

PATHWAYS TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE



FISCAL
SUSTAINABILITY
& ECONOMIC
GROWTH



HIGH-
PERFORMANCE
HEALTHCARE



EFFECTIVE
DEMOCRACY



PATHWAYS TO FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY & ECONOMIC GROWTH

ADVOCATING FOR ACTION AND CREATING AREAS OF COMPROMISE

Advocating for Fiscally Responsible Legislation

Peterson Solutions Fund engages with leaders in Congress and the Administration to advance more fiscally responsible legislation and continues to support implementation of a fiscal commission.

Key Advocacy Grants



CONCORD COALITION ACTION FUND

Peterson Solutions Fund supported the creation of the Concord Coalition Action Fund, the (c)(4) arm of the Concord Coalition in 2025. The Action Fund is building an enduring grassroots coalition of citizens across the country to restore federal fiscal discipline and a balanced budget, ensuring economic stability and prosperity for future generations.



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER ACTION

Peterson Solutions Fund partnered with BPC Action in support of a range of advocacy activities to advocate for congressional action addressing our country's structural deficits. BPC Action advocated for responsible fiscal solutions throughout the 118th and 119th Congresses, with a focus on driving bipartisan collaboration and legislative action on substantive policy changes to reduce the deficit, reform the federal budget process and make progress toward long-term fiscal sustainability.



FIX THE DEBT COALITION

Peterson Solutions Fund partnered with Fix the Debt Coalition, the (c)(4) arm of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, to encourage enactment of a bipartisan fiscal commission to address America's structural debt challenge. Efforts focused on building support in both chambers, including working with leaders of the Bipartisan Fiscal Forum in the House.



PATHWAYS TO HIGH-PERFORMANCE HEALTHCARE

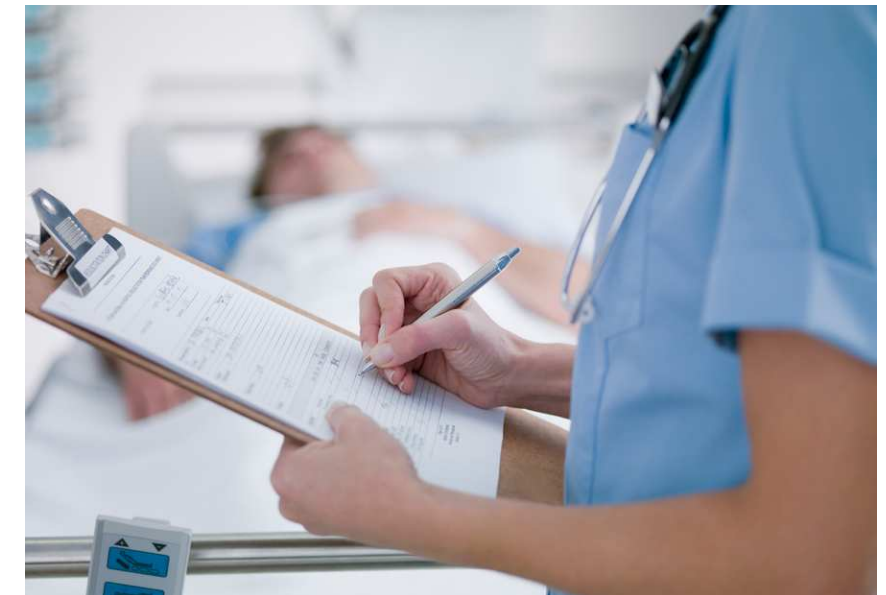
TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE INTO A HIGH-PERFORMANCE SYSTEM

Increasing Health System Data Transparency

In 2022, Peterson Solutions Fund partnered with Manatt Health to explore and assess a variety of state and federal policymaking approaches designed to enhance price and cost transparency within the U.S. health system. The work examined ways to increase access and use of healthcare data to drive improvements in healthcare market purchasing and policymaking.

Enacting Legislation to Lower Costs and Increase Transparency among Health Plan Sponsors

Peterson Solutions Fund helped support the ERISA Industry Committee's efforts to enact the Lower Cost, More Transparency Act (LCMT Act). This bipartisan legislation would empower employers with actionable data, helping to support improved care and lower spending in the healthcare system.





PATHWAYS TO EFFECTIVE DEMOCRACY

STRENGTHENING OUR POLICYMAKING

Educating and Engaging Elected Officials and Staff on Fiscal Policy

Peterson Solutions Fund provided strategic grants to center-left Third Way and center-right Republican Main Street Partnership to support their work educating and engaging elected officials and their staff on fiscal policy.

Reforming the Electoral Count Act

In 2022, Peterson Solutions Fund made grants to two nonpartisan organizations, Issue One Action and United to Protect Democracy to bring attention in Congress to the urgency and importance of passing bipartisan reforms to the 1887 Electoral Count Act, the law that governs how Congress certifies presidential elections. The grants supported advocacy efforts to build and maintain support among policymakers for legislative action on bipartisan, targeted reforms to clarify and modernize the arcane and vague law, in order to better ensure an orderly transfer of power.







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